U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/027,856
Reply to Office Action mailed November 5, 2004

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1, 7, and 12 are hereby amended.

The amendment of claims 1 and 7, reciting that the slit is formed along the side of the chip and extends continuously from a first position that is closer to the first corner of the chip, than to the second corner of the chip, to a second position that is closer to the second corner of the chip, than to the first corner of the chip, is supported, for example, by Figure 1. The amendment of claim 12, reciting "the first slit facing and extending along the first side of the semiconductor chip, the second slit facing and extending along the second side of the semiconductor chip", is supported, for example, by Figure 1.

Claims 1, 4, 6, and 12 were rejected as being unpatentable over Glenn (US 6,281,568) in view of Nakamura (US 5,986,333). Applicant traverses this rejection. Claim 1 requires that each slit is formed along the side of the chip and extends continuously from a first position that is closer to the first corner of the chip, than to the second corner of the chip, to a second position that is closer to the second corner of the chip, than to the first corner of the chip. Similarly, claim 12 requires that each slit extend along the side of the semiconductor chip. Nakamura does not suggest a slit formed along the side of a semiconductor chip where the slits are discontinuous with each other at the corner of the chip, as required by claim 12. Nor does Nakamura suggest a slit extending continuously from a first position closer to the first corner of the semiconductor chip (than to the second corner of the chip) to a second position that is closer to the second corner of the chip (than to the first corner of the chip), as required by claim 1. Rather, Nakamura teaches slits (78) which are discontinuous between two adjacent corners of the semiconductor chip (see Figure 12). Further, the linear slits (79) taught by Nakamura do not face and extend along any side of the semiconductor chip (50), and are not discontinuous with each other at the corner of the chip, as required by claim 12. Favorable reconsideration of claims 1, 4, 6, and 12 is requested.

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Claim 2 was rejected as being unpatentable over Glenn, in view of Nakamura, and further in view of Kurafuchi (US 5,410,182). Applicant traverses this rejection. Kurafuchi does not remedy the deficiencies of Glenn and Nakamura, as previously noted. Applicant is not conceding the correctness of the rejection as applied to the rejected claim. Favorable reconsideration of claim 2 is requested.

Claim 5 was rejected as being unpatentable over Glenn, in view of Nakamura, and further in view of Gang (US 6,566,168). Applicant traverses this rejection. Gang does not remedy the deficiencies of Glenn and Nakamura, as previously noted. Applicant is not conceding the correctness of the rejection as applied to the rejected claim. Favorable reconsideration of claim 5 is requested.

Claims 7-10 were rejected as being unpatentable over Glenn, in view of Gang, and further in view of Nakamura. Applicant traverses this rejection. The combination of Glenn, Gang, and Nakamura fails to suggest a slit which extends **continuously** from a first corner of the semiconductor chip to a second corner of the semiconductor chip, as required by claim 7. Favorable reconsideration of claims 7-10 is requested.
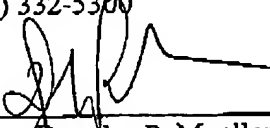
In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Douglas P. Mueller, Reg. No. 30,300, at (612)371-5237.

Respectfully submitted,

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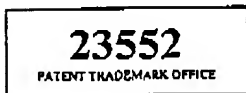
Dated: April 1, 2005

By _____
Douglas P. Mueller
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